Coronavirus Stimulus Direct Payments FAQ

Congress is close to passing a $2 trillion stimulus bill to help offset the financial burdens created by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The bill proposes to send direct payments to Americans. This article contains answers to questions you may have about those payments.

**How much should I expect?**
Payments are based on income (as indicated on tax forms you’ve submitted). **Individuals making under $75,000 will receive $1,200.** Couples making under $150,000 who joint-filed will receive $2,400. Those making $112,500 or less who filed as “head of household” will also get the full $1,200.

Families will also receive an additional **$500 per child.**

If you made over $75,000, you will receive less. For every $100 on income beyond $75,000, you will receive $5 less in your check. Individuals making $99,000 and couples making $198,000 won’t receive anything.

**When will I get the payment?**
The Treasury Department said money will be sent “within three weeks” for direct deposits, which would be a little before April 18. Paper checks could take much longer to be sent out.

**Where will they send the money?**
The Treasury Department will use information provided from your 2019 tax return (or 2018, if you haven’t yet filed taxes this year).

**How is it being sent?**
The payments will be sent the same way you received your last tax refund. If that was a direct deposit, that will be the method. Otherwise, the IRS will mail a check to your last known address.

More specifics will be announced when this bill is signed into law.

**How many payments are there?**
This bill only authorizes a one-time payment, but congressional leaders suggested the possibility of additional payments in another bill at a later date.

**I made over $99,000 when I filed taxes, but I’ve since been laid off. Will I get a payment?**
Likely not, but you can apply for it when you file your 2020 tax return. The IRS is expected to create a way to handle these situations.

**Will people on Social Security get a payment?**
Yes, provided they received Form SSA-1099 in 2019.

**Is the payment taxable?**
No.